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Housekeepers' Chat

Thursday, December 27, 1928.

(NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

Subject: "How to Wash Silk and Wool". Program includes menu and recipes from Bureau of Home Economics, United States Department of Agriculture.

Bulletin available: "Methods and Equipment for Home Laundering."
11-60000

I shall answer a number of questions this morning, and after that -- well, we shall see how much time there is left, for recipes, and so on.

The first question is an inquiry about washing rayon underwear. When you wash artificial silk, or rayon, underwear, remember that it is much weaker, when wet. It must be laundered very carefully. Wash it in lukewarm water, with soap-suds. Hot water makes the fabric tender. It is important to have neutral soap. Don't rub rayon garments, but squeeze them, and rinse repeatedly, until they're clean. Rough finger nails, or rings worn on the fingers, tear wet artificial silk very easily. After it's washed, spread the garment flat on a heavy towel, rather than hanging it over a line, or narrow rod. Never use clothespins. If you iron your rayon garments, use medium heat. Too hot an iron will injure rayon. Better still, place a cloth between the rayon garment, and the iron, when pressing.

Second question: "Among my husband's Christmas gifts were several pairs of wool socks. How should I wash them, so they won't shrink, and become hard and ugly?"

All moist wool is sensitive to rubbing, and to heat. Wool becomes hard and shrunken unless it's carefully washed. You have probably discovered that strong alkali solutions weaken woolen fabrics, and often completely dissolve the material. Too much heat, and marked changes in temperature, will cause shrinkage. All the water used in washing woollens should be lukewarm. Many people wash their woolen garments correctly, and then rinse them in cold water. This causes a sudden contraction, which is likely to be permanent.

When you wash wool, use only neutral soaps, and no strong washing powders. Use soap in the form of a solution, or a jelly, and don't rub it directly on the fabric. Use lots of lukewarm suds. The temperature of lukewarm suds is about 110 degrees Fahrenheit. Use more water, in proportion to bulk, for wool than for any other material.

When you wash woolen hose, or other woolen garments, squeeze and work them in the lukewarm suds, without rubbing. Press out the excess water, and wash in a second lukewarm suds. Hand washing is less likely than machine washing, to shrink woollens, and make them lose their softness.

Squeeze them from the last suds, and rinse them free from soap, in several changes of lukewarm water, as near the temperature of the suds as possible. All wool materials should be dried in a warm place, but not near a fire, or in direct sunlight. Never let them freeze.

1917
The first of the year
was a very dry one
and the crops were
very poor.

The second of the year
was a very wet one
and the crops were
very good.

The third of the year
was a very dry one
and the crops were
very poor.

The fourth of the year
was a very wet one
and the crops were
very good.

The fifth of the year
was a very dry one
and the crops were
very poor.

The sixth of the year
was a very wet one
and the crops were
very good.

The seventh of the year
was a very dry one
and the crops were
very poor.

The eighth of the year
was a very wet one
and the crops were
very good.

The ninth of the year
was a very dry one
and the crops were
very poor.

The tenth of the year
was a very wet one
and the crops were
very good.

The eleventh of the year
was a very dry one
and the crops were
very poor.

The twelfth of the year
was a very wet one
and the crops were
very good.

A word about ironing silk and wool might not be amiss, at this time. This scorches very easily, and white silk becomes yellow when it's pressed with a very hot iron. Use a warm iron, protecting the silk with cheesecloth. Iron on the wrong side. The silk should be evenly damp, but not wet. If the silk is too wet, and is ironed with a hot iron, it is likely to be stiff and papery, and if it's half wet and half dry, it may be spotted.

Wool garments should be pressed while they're still damp, with a medium iron. Iron until the garment is dry. If you are ironing the right side of the wool, use a pressing cloth. In pressing flannels, slightly dampened cheesecloth is useful, as it draws up the fluff of the material.

Another thing you might like to know -- if Joe College brings home his sweater, to be washed before he goes back to school. After the sweater is washed, spread it, back down, with sleeves outstretched, on several thicknesses of clean, soft material, laid flat. Measure it, and shape it according to the dimensions taken before the garment was put in water. Pin in place, if necessary. Turn occasionally, after the sweater is almost dry.

This reminds me of a question some one asked a few weeks ago -- the proper method of folding a man's shirt. There are two methods; however, I won't try to describe them. Both these methods are diagrammed in the bulletin called "Methods and Equipment for Home Laundering." This bulletin is free, and I think it is one of the most practical and useful bulletins ever published. I'll be glad to send you a copy.

Here's something else you may be interested in, if your daughter finds her velvet dress hopelessly crushed, when she unpacks her collegiate trunk. Perhaps the dress can be made to regain its old beauty, if it's steamed by the teakettle method. The equipment necessary for steaming is an ordinary teakettle, which has a tightly fitted lid and a spout, and an India rubber tube about four feet long, attached to the spout. Fill the kettle about half full of water, and bring this to the boil. Be sure there is sufficient room in the kettle, for the steam to pass through the tube, unhindered.

Put the dress on a hanger, and hold the free end of a rubber tube inside the dress. Wrap the hot tube in a small towel, so that it will not burn your hand. Hold the steaming tube as near as you can to the back of the velvet, but be careful not to touch the material. Begin at the top of the dress, and pass the tube slowly downward. The pile will be raised by the steaming, and the material will look like new. If the marks do not disappear entirely, flick the pile carefully with a soft brush. Then hang the dress to dry where it will have nothing brushing against it, to mark the damp velvet again.

There's another method of steaming velvet, which is even simpler than the teakettle method; that is, hanging the velvet in the bathroom, with the tub full of hot water.

Well, we got along fine with the questions and answers. I believe there's time enough to broadcast a supper, which will come in handy this holiday week. It doesn't take much time to prepare -- which is quite an item these busy days when there are so many things to do.

The menu includes Oyster Stew; Toasted Rolls; Celery; Olives; Apple Compote; and Christmas Cookies.

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses. The names are written in a cursive hand, and the addresses are written in a more formal, printed hand. The list is organized into two columns, with names on the left and addresses on the right.

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Here's how the Recipe Lady makes an Oyster Stew, with seven ingredients;

1 quart milk
1 quart oysters
4 tablespoons melted butter
2 tablespoons flour
Salt, pepper, and chopped parsley

Seven ingredients, for Oyster Stew: (Repeat ingredients).

Heat the milk in a double boiler. Strain the oysters from their liquor, and pick out any small pieces of shell that may be clinging to them. Heat the oyster liquor slightly, and remove the scum which rises to the top. Blend the flour and butter and stir into the milk, until thickened. Add the oysters and the liquor, and cook for five or ten minutes, or until the edges of the oysters begin to curl. Season to taste, with salt and pepper. Serve in hot soup plates, with finely chopped parsley sprinkled over the top.

For dessert, we're having Apple Compote and Christmas cookies. Remember how to make Apple Compote? Peel the apples, take out the cores, and leave the apples whole. Make a rich sirup, one cup of sugar to one cup of water. Add the apples to the boiling sirup. Cook till the apples are transparent. Color them red by adding commercial coloring matter or cinnamon candies to the sirup. Garnish with nuts and whipped cream.

To repeat the menu: Oyster Stew; Toasted Rolls; Celery; Olives; Apple Compote; and Christmas cookies.

I'm sure you must have some of the good-keeping Christmas cookies left over -- that is, if the cookie jar is well hidden. Another good dessert, after this simple first course, would be mince pie, or what's left of the Christmas plum pudding, heated up and served with plain vanilla ice cream.

Tomorrow will be a busy day -- two menus for the New Year dinner, and three new recipes.

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1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem.

2. In the second part, we shall consider the case of a single particle.

3. The third part is devoted to the case of a system of particles.

4. In the fourth part, we shall discuss the results of our calculations.

5. The fifth part is devoted to a general discussion of the results.

6. In the sixth part, we shall consider the case of a single particle.

7. The seventh part is devoted to the case of a system of particles.

8. In the eighth part, we shall discuss the results of our calculations.

9. The ninth part is devoted to a general discussion of the results.

10. In the tenth part, we shall consider the case of a single particle.

11. The eleventh part is devoted to the case of a system of particles.

12. In the twelfth part, we shall discuss the results of our calculations.

13. The thirteenth part is devoted to a general discussion of the results.

14. In the fourteenth part, we shall consider the case of a single particle.

15. The fifteenth part is devoted to the case of a system of particles.

16. In the sixteenth part, we shall discuss the results of our calculations.

17. The seventeenth part is devoted to a general discussion of the results.

18. In the eighteenth part, we shall consider the case of a single particle.

19. The nineteenth part is devoted to the case of a system of particles.

20. In the twentieth part, we shall discuss the results of our calculations.